



User: **Venessa Finn** Community Name: **Los Alamos County**

Application Status: SCRUB COMPLETED

Submit Date: 11/2/2007

Section 1: Contact Information

Contact Information

Primary Contact Information:

Venessa Finn
Business AnalystCoordinator for Youth Business Grant Program
Los Alamos Commerce and Development Corporation
190 Central Park Square
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Secondary Contact Information:

Katie Bridgewater
Juvenile Justice Advisory Board
P.O. Box 4716
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Demographic

Visit the US Census Bureau American Fact Finder <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Poverty rate for community:

2.9

Child Poverty rate for community:

All Ages 0 - 18: 2.3

Population size: Please enter the numeric values below

Total Population: 18343

Youth Aged 0 - 18: 4751

Race and Ethnic breakdowns:

Non-Hispanic White alone: 82.0%

Non-Hispanic Black or African American alone: 0%

Non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaskan Native alone: 1.0%

Non-Hispanic Asian alone: 4.0%

Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone: 0%

Non-Hispanic Other race alone: 1.0%

Non-Hispanic Multiracial (two or more races): 2.0%

Hispanic or Latino of any race: 12.0%

Urbanicity: Urban

Forum Questions:

Representatives from my community attended one of the two Regional Forums held this year: Yes
 If selected, is your community willing to help mentor other communities or act as a speaker/presenter at Regional or National meetings? Yes

Questions**Section 2: Commitment, Collaboration, Awareness, Data and Advocacy**

The America's Promise Alliance believes that, as a nation and as communities, we can help more young people get the support and opportunities they need if we do a few things better:

- Engage committed partners and individuals from all sectors, and enable them to collaborate more effectively toward shared goals and plans.
- Raise awareness of kids' needs, using relevant data, and drive people to act and advocate to make kids a top priority.

1. Are there one or more child and youth focused **community wide** or **one-on-one/ small-group partnerships** at work in your community?

Ans: Yes

a. Please list 1-3 examples of standing, community-wide collaborations (e.g. Children's Commission, Taskforce, positive youth development coalition) working on behalf of children and youth in your community. Please describe the group(s), including how long they have existed, the sectors involved (e.g., local elected officials, media partners, schools, nonprofits, faith groups, young people), the leadership for the collaboration(s) and any successes that the group(s) has have had in serving children and youth in your community.

Ans: Los Alamos (LA) is a vivacious community whose citizens take great pride in supporting their children and youth. Nestled in the northern mountains of New Mexico, Los Alamos is an ideal community to raise children. We are a community dedicated to our children and youth as demonstrated by the multiple community-wide, youth centered partnerships which include such programs as: The Los Alamos Juvenile Justice Advisory Board (JJAB) established in 2004 by the Los Alamos School Board and Los Alamos County Council. JJAB engages over 30 individuals; including youth and representatives from educational, legislative, law enforcement, judiciary, social and health services, media, recreation, and other community organizations. JJAB utilizes community resources to research gaps in youth services and fund youth intervention and prevention programs. The Community Health Council (CHC) was formed in 2001 to identify and address health issues through ongoing research and coordination of services. The 22 member Council includes representatives from the LA Medical Center, local crisis center, local counseling agencies, Los Alamos Public Schools (LAPS), Maternal and Child Health (MCH), among others. Many of CHC's initiatives target youth. One ongoing project is the administration of mental and physical health surveys. Data gathered provides valuable information to assist organizations in developing programs that target youth needs. The DWI Planning Council, established in 1999, is comprised of local leaders, law enforcement officials, LAPS representatives, and other community service organizations. These organizational leaders work together to reduce underage drinking through educational outreach and law enforcement efforts.

b. Please list 1-3 examples of the one-on-one or small group partnerships that exist in your community (e.g. school/business, city/school, public/private, faith-based/nonprofit, school/community or for-profit) and their results (e.g. resulted in significant new financial investments, new or expanded numbers of volunteers or other human resources, etc.)

Ans: Within Los Alamos, there are multiple small group partnerships that support children and youth. The Los Alamos YMCA and Los Alamos Public School District (LAPS) have been working as partners for over 15 years and have a shared space partnership at LAPS facilities. The shared space is used to operate child care and community programs for a YMCA Wellness Plan available to all school district teachers, substitutes, and employees. The YMCA operates such after school programs on-site at all five elementary schools in Los Alamos. Homework tutoring, community service opportunities, sports, arts and crafts, and cooking are just some of the activities that the children enjoy. The YMCA is a United Way agency, which allows them to offer scholarships to families who cannot afford child care program fees. The Youth Environmental Services (YES CORP) is a

program specifically targeting youth ages 11-17 to engage in a combination of volunteer service, environmental education, and work experience. This program focuses on trail improvement, landscaping, and watershed restoration throughout Los Alamos. The program is another successful partnership between the YMCA, which administers the program, and Los Alamos County, which provides trained adult leaders. The JJAB has partnered with the Los Alamos Chamber of Commerce to establish the "Assets in Action" program which uses the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets approach to educate and engage the community around the common goal of building, "Healthy Communities, Healthy Youth." The program reaches out to community members, LAPS, business members, and youth leaders throughout Los Alamos County.

2. How are children and youth a **policy priority** for your community? What policies or regulations have been passed or are in place to support children and youth and what time period do they cover? Describe which public leaders are supportive and how they demonstrate their support. What portion of your city or community's budget is dedicated to services that benefit children and youth?

Ans: Children and youth are a top priority for the citizens and elected officials of the county of Los Alamos. Los Alamos is governed by an elected County Council. In 2006, this Council authorized the formation of a county-wide Youth Advisory Board (YAB). The Council has appointed five high school students to serve on this board. The YAB is chartered to work with the Council in creating new county policies targeting children and youth specific issues. The YAB is in the process of conducting a county-wide youth assessment to include gathering pertinent information, reviewing current youth programs and facilities and providing significant input to county staff and elected officials. The members of the County Council and the Los Alamos School Board unanimously endorsed the establishment of the JJAB in 2004. JJAB's mission is to help youth and families feel and be connected, valued, and recognized, through community, families, and individual activities. JJAB works to support the juvenile justice system, engage the community in solutions, and to galvanize community resources for prevention and immediate intervention to improve the lives of youth thus increasing their chances for success and building a healthier community. The Los Alamos County DWI Planning Council has also made youth a policy priority. The Planning Council's main initiative is to combat underage drinking. They work with local law enforcement to implement prevention and intervention initiatives in order to change social norms and attitudes toward underage drinking. Beyond local community funding sources, the DWI Planning Council has secured additional funding to help support its youth initiatives and community programs. The Council and its elected officials demonstrate their ongoing support to children and youth by committing \$6,360,204 or 17.1% of the total county budget to youth specific programs. The county also authorized \$500,000 from the capital improvement fund for a new skate park.

3. Does your community follow a community-wide agenda or plan for addressing the needs of children and youth with detailed, agreed upon outcomes?

Ans: Yes

a. If so, please describe the plan, the process to develop the plan, including any needs assessment performed, the partners that were involved, when it was originally created, whether it has been revised to reflect changes in your community and the child population, any outcomes associated or being evaluated and how the plan has been used to create better policies and programming.

Ans: The County Council adopted the first Comprehensive Plan in 1964. The Plan addressed population, land use, housing, traffic circulation, business districts, schools, recreation, public buildings, capital improvements, implementation, and a market analysis. Later versions were adopted in 1976, 1986, and 1987. The Comprehensive Plan is a living document that is reviewed and amended based on ongoing needs assessments. The Comprehensive Review Committee consists of Los Alamos County citizens, a Comprehensive Plan Project Team, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and the Los Alamos County Community Development Department staff. It serves as the roadmap for all county decisions including objectives many decisions which impact youth specific needs. The following reflects the Plan's attention to youth: • The County should complete a comprehensive review of all county youth-related activities and programs, and implement code revisions to include youth representatives as voting members on oversight committees. • The County should work with local organizations involved with youth to identify or create youth organizations that will provide regularly scheduled activities and events and leadership development opportunities using "best practices" in youth development. • The County should work to develop transportation systems that accommodate the needs of young people. • The County, with the youth, should plan and implement strategies for intergenerational activities. • The County should conduct and publish periodic community-wide assessments of youth interests, needs, and skills with recommendations for improving services and opportunities for youth. • The County should work with the youth to

create and publish a comprehensive database of the resources available to the youth. • The County should work with the youth and local businesses to develop specific marketing and job finding strategies and opportunities oriented toward youth. • The County government should work with the community and non-profit organizations in creating and maintaining education opportunities and/or centers. • The County and/or a public-private consortium should plan and develop appropriate venues for conferences and the performing arts, which will serve as the heart of our world-class center of learning. • The County should encourage the development and implementation of a plan for improved connections between the Laboratory, homes, public buildings and institutions of higher learning, including bicycle and pedestrian circulation systems, adequate, state of the art communication systems, and gathering places to encourage social and intellectual intercourse. • The Counties' Park and Recreation programs should support recreational activities that improve physical condition, such as hiking, swimming, tennis, and skating.

4. Is there an established mechanism to cultivate and support **youth leadership** and/or to give youth a voice in policy decisions in your community?

Ans: Yes

a. If so, please describe these mechanisms, including how long they have been in existence, how they function, what kind of decisions or opportunities young people have access to and specifically how policy decisions have been influenced.

Ans: The YAB was created by the County Council in October 2006. The YAB consists of four two-year term positions and one one-year term position. The five high school youth members are selected by Council members with the goal of forming a diverse group with varying experiences and interests. The YAB is conducting a county-wide youth assessment to include gathering pertinent information, reviewing current youth programs and facilities and providing significant input to county staff and elected officials. In 2005, Leadership Los Alamos and the JJAB initiated an annual 2-day "Building Leadership Skills" workshop for high school students. This annual program includes a professional facilitator who works with the teens on developing skills for building relationships, increasing confidence, and developing positive and effective communication. The participants select community service projects and work throughout the year with adult leaders in project planning, fundraising, and project implementation. Kiwanis Club of Los Alamos sponsors multiple youth clubs including the high school Key Club, middle school Builder's Club, and elementary schools K-Kids. In partnership with school staff, Kiwanis Club members participate in youth club meetings, work with the youth to complete community service projects, and participate in youth-mentoring-youth projects such as "Read and Lead". The Kiwanis Club annually sponsors youth to attend "Key Leaders Conference", a national training program that focuses on developing youth leadership skills.

Section 3: Alliance Priorities

The America's Promise Alliance maintains its commitment to the importance of every child in America receiving all Five Promises. Reducing the dropout rate and increasing the numbers of young people graduating from high school is the most important long-term outcome for the Alliance. The Alliance has agreed to work together on a collective goal of reaching more young people with the resources they need and deserve. Three national action strategies will help us reach our "15 in 5" goal - to deliver more Promises to 15 million underserved children in five years. We are also interested in the role that parents can play in the community and how communities are meeting the needs of special populations.

1. Please describe any initiatives your community has that helps ensure young people in your community graduate from high school and are ready for college or the workforce (e.g. school readiness, academic achievement, youth employment initiatives, dropout prevention, or dropout recovery). Please include any outcomes achieved, the partners involved, and how your community comes together to help your young people succeed.

Ans: All high school students are matched with a full-time College and Career Coordinator, separate from his or her guidance counselor. These advisors work with the students to aid them in developing an educational plan and post-high school plans. Guidance counselors provide additional services and options for students who have been identified at risk for drop out. Our high school has Advanced Placement classes in social studies, psychology, English, and science. For students wishing to fulfill requirements early, LA High School provides opportunities for students to complete coursework through Brigham Young University and other accredited universities. We also have a work-study program that transports youth to employment opportunities throughout the community. JJAB works collaboratively with the LA Police Department, CHC, Teen Court, DWI Planning Council, the schools, hospital, mental health agencies, Family Strengths Network (FSN), local non-profits, business owners, local judges, Juvenile

Parole and Probation Officers, and County Council members. This collaborative determines strategies to keep youth active and engaged in school, drug and alcohol free, and to reduce the drop-out rates. Youth in grades 4th -12th are surveyed using the PRIDE and Search Institute instruments. These surveys measure risk-taking and other behavioral indicators. These results are used in programmatic development providing a basic gap analysis. Efforts are lead by a LAPS Prevention Specialist who serves as an active JJAB member and works with community to provide assistance and support the efforts within the Los Alamos Schools.

2. How does your community support and engage parents and caregivers and help ensure that families can provide financial, emotional, social and/or educational resources their children need to be successful?

Ans: All high school students are matched with a full-time College and Career Coordinator, separate from his or her guidance counselor. These advisors work with the students to aid them in developing an educational plan and post-high school plans. Guidance counselors provide additional services and options for students who have been identified at risk for drop out. Our high school has Advanced Placement classes in social studies, psychology, English, and science. For students wishing to fulfill requirements early, LA High School provides opportunities for students to complete coursework through Brigham Young University and other accredited universities. We also have a work-study program that transports youth to employment opportunities throughout the community. JJAB works collaboratively with the LA Police Department, CHC, Teen Court, DWI Planning Council, the schools, hospital, mental health agencies, Family Strengths Network (FSN), local non-profits, business owners, local judges, Juvenile Parole and Probation Officers, and County Council members. This collaborative determines strategies to keep youth active and engaged in school, drug and alcohol free, and to reduce the drop-out rates. Youth in grades 4th -12th are surveyed using the PRIDE and Search Institute instruments. These surveys measure risk-taking and other behavioral indicators. These results are used in programmatic development providing a basic gap analysis. Efforts are lead by a LAPS Prevention Specialist who serves as an active JJAB member and works with community to provide assistance and support the efforts within the Los Alamos Schools.

3. Please provide 1-3 examples of how your community supports children in the foster care system or other special populations (children of prisoners, children with disabilities, children in juvenile justice system, etc.) and any related outcome data. How does your community work with existing policies or within the existing State or federal systems?

Ans: Los Alamos citizens are sensitive to the needs of children and youth who are in foster care, have physical or mental disabilities, who are in the juvenile justice system, or who have parents who are incarcerated. The Kiwanis Club provides support for children in the foster care system by hosting and financially supporting holiday dinners. The Kiwanis also supports the local Special Olympics program through financial assistance and volunteers. Our school system provides Social Workers to assist foster families and their children to ensure they receive any services they may need. Social Workers are also available to serve the needs of students whose parents are incarcerated. The Los Alamos CHC and JJAB created the Restorative Justice program in 2005 as a diversion for youth from the traditional juvenile justice system. We are now using these remarkable versatile approaches far beyond the traditional justice system to enhance the quality of life in schools, workplaces, families, and communities. The process invites all impacted parties to have a voice in resolving crime, conflict, and wrongdoing which creates the opportunity for understanding and forgiveness. The LAPS has school nurses and counselors in every school who are available to assist all children with their medical, physical, and mental health needs. Many of these staff members undergo additional training, on new technology and treatments for students with diabetes to ensure they provide the best possible services for all students. The school staff also maintains a close working relationship with the local hospital and Children's Health Clinic.

4. Please describe how your community delivers comprehensive services where the kids are to fulfill the needs of your children and youth as they relate to the five Promises (e.g. - what in school services are available or provided?). Research shows that the more Promises children and youth receive, the more likely they are to be productive citizens in their community and the less likely they are to exhibit risky behaviors.

Ans: The Family YMCA after school program and summer camp programs has continued to show growth for the past 7 years. The programs continue to offer scholarships which are promoted by LAPS staff and YMCA staff. The number of families on scholarship has remained proportional to enrollment growth. The YMCA Counselors-in-Training Program targets youth entering 8th/9th grade and provides them with the training to become future camp counselors. YMCA Leaders-in-Training Program targets youth entering 6th/7th grades, and emphasizes positive life and leadership skills in a service-learning self-discovery venue; currently only available during the summer months, but will soon become a year round YES Corps. The LAPS, LA County, FSN and JJAB have joined forces to offer free prevention and intervention programs to youth and families. Programs include substance abuse evaluations and treatment, "Family Solutions" classes for parents and teens, a "Parent to Parent" forum, and Envision Your Future for Boys, and "Girls Circles" for teen and adolescent girls. JJAB and CHC have joined together to create JUNTOS (Joining & Understanding Now, Teens Overcome Separation) which is a new youth leadership effort that addresses the disparities and lack of communication between the young people from Espanola and Los Alamos. These two communities are close in proximity, but have very different socio-economic and cultural differences. Adults and youth work together in an effort to bridge these communities. The two Youth Activity Centers in Los Alamos County provide activities and programs to help children develop necessary assets and competencies and to prevent risky behaviors.

5. How does your community ensure that all young people who are eligible for health care coverage through your State Child Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) or Medicaid are adequately enrolled? What challenges has your community faced and overcome in this area?

Ans: The CHC and MCH work collaboratively with the New Mexico Department of Health local Public Health Office to publicize health program availability throughout the community. These groups also work with Los Alamos County to ensure that indigent funds are made available for families without health care coverage. The CHC provides a 24 hour 7 day non-crisis information line called the Los Alamos Resource Directory (505-699-5969) for parents and youth to obtain information regarding local community resources. The CHC Coordinator also works with local dentists who will provide free or reduced charges for emergency dental services. The CHC website also provides extensive resources for the community regarding available medical care services including the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program. Los Alamos is fortunate that the major employer in the community is the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), a federally funded national research laboratory. Because of the employment opportunities, many community members have excellent health care coverage for their families. Children and youth, whose families are not employed by LANL, can pursue health care coverage through the State Child Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

6. Please describe the services and supports available to ensure that middle school students have a successful transition to high school and are ready for the real world. Please include information about any service-learning or career exploration programs or programs to build job-skills, etc.

Ans: Los Alamos community members and leaders continue to develop in and after school programs to ensure that middle school students have a successful transition to high school and receive the necessary support services to prepare for the real world. Current programs include: Kiwanis Club of Los Alamos sponsors multiple youth clubs including the middle school Builder's Club. In partnership with LAPS staff, Kiwanis Club members participate in youth club meetings, work with the youth to complete community service projects, and participate in youth-mentoring-youth projects such as "Read and Lead". The Kiwanis Club annually sponsors youth to attend "Key Leaders Conference", a national training program that focuses on developing youth leadership skills. The YMCA Counselors-in-Training Program targets youth entering 8th/9th grade and provides them with the training to become future camp counselors. YMCA Leaders-in-Training Program targets youth entering 6th/7th grades, and emphasizes positive life and leadership skills in a service-learning self-discovery venue; currently only available during the summer months, but will soon become a year round YES Corps. The LAPS, LA County, FSN and JJAB have joined forces to offer free prevention and intervention programs to youth and families. Programs include substance abuse evaluations and treatment, "Family Solutions" classes for parents and teens, a "Parent to Parent" forum, and Envision Your Future for Boys, and "Girls Circles" for teen and adolescent girls.

Section 4: Resources Youth Receive

You may have already provided some of this information in a previous section. You will not be penalized if you refer to a previous answer or section in your answer in order to save word space and report on new or different programs.

Children and youth need a variety of resources in order to thrive. America's Promise calls these the **Five Promises**. For each of the Promises (listed below), please explain how you are working to ensure that all children and youth receive these resources in your community. Please provide examples of programs, initiatives and/or policies. Specifically include indicators or data collected that illustrate how you provide these resources to children and youth and progress made, including **trend data**. (Trend data could include progress over time or progress as compared to state or national benchmarks.) The examples listed below may or may not exist in your community. You have the freedom to be creative in your responses and report programs and initiatives that may exist only in your community.

Please make sure that the data you include reflect the outcomes of young people in the community as was described in Section 1b - for example, if the community applying for this honor is a city, please do not include county data. [OR you may change the geographic area being considered for this honor to support the data available]

Caring Adults:

Definition: Every child and youth needs and deserves support and guidance from caring adults in their families, schools, and communities, including ongoing, secure relationships with parents and other family adults, as well as multiple and consistent formal and informal positive relationships with teachers, mentors, coaches, youth volunteers, and neighbors. Answers could include adults or older young people participating in formal mentoring programs; PTA membership; guidance counselor-to-student ratio; etc.

Ans: Los Alamos has an abundance of caring adults. The Family YMCA is the largest provider of youth programs. In 2006, the YMCA served 2,271 youth (1yr – 17 yrs) in a variety of sports and recreational programs. The majority of these programs are taught or coached by adult volunteers who believe in mentoring and helping youth. All volunteer coaches attend a mandatory training clinic focused on serving youth. In 2006, 333 individuals volunteered 7,525 hours in YMCA programs and as policy volunteers. The Kiwanis Club of Los Alamos is a service club of 60 members who focus on serving youth and promoting service to community in youth. Their motto is "Serving the Children of the World". In 2006-07, the Kiwanis Club distributed \$34,000 in grants to youth-serving organizations and scholarships to college bound students who demonstrated outstanding community service. Kiwanis members documented over 1500 volunteer hours in local youth-oriented service activities.

Safe Places:

Definition: Every child and youth needs and deserves to be physically and emotionally safe everywhere they are - from the actual places of families, schools, neighborhoods and communities to the virtual places of media - and to have an appropriate balance of structured, supervised activities and unstructured, unscheduled time. Answers could include drug-free school zones; number of safe play spaces; programs to reduce overall violence and other crimes in community - particularly toward children and youth; availability of out-of-school time activities or programs; availability of before and after-school care; etc.

Ans: The Los Alamos Family Council, in partnership with Los Alamos County and the United Way, provides two Youth Activity Centers for children in 3rd grade to 8th grade. Many children in our community are alone during out of school hours while their parents are at work. The Activity Centers' goal is to provide meaningful adult supervision and social interaction for these children after school, on school holidays, and during the summer months. Center staff provides safe, friendly, and supportive environments in which these children can interact with their peers while offering them the freedom and safety to participate in activities of interest to them. Teens over 8th grade are invited to volunteer as Counselors-in-Training, allowing them the opportunity to serve as mentors for the younger children.

A Healthy Start:

Definition: Every child and youth needs and deserves the healthy bodies, healthy minds, and healthful habits and choices resulting from regular well-child/youth health care and needed treatment, good nutrition and exercise, comprehensive health knowledge and skills, and role models of physical and psychological health. Answers could include health insurance rates of children or number enrolled in State Child Health Insurance Plans (SCHIP); immunization rates for infants; physical education or health education classes in schools; availability of healthy, nutritious food in school; and availability of community recreation centers; etc.

Ans: Children and teens have an array of health-related services and programs available to them and their parents in Los Alamos. The following is a sample of the health related programs offered throughout the county: -WHO (We Help Ourselves) program - provided to the LAPS by FSN - Building Youth Leadership Skills Workshop - provided by the JJAB -United Way Youth Campaign -Open Gym available after basketball games - provided by LAPS/JJAB -Middle and high school students are eligible for free vouchers for therapy services from a private therapist (in addition to school counselors) - provided by LAPS -Life Skills Educational Class - provided by the Los Alamos Family Council/JJAB -Truancy/Chronic Tardy Intervention - provided by LAFC/JJAB -Girls Circle Program - provided by FSN/JJAB -Family Solutions Class for Parents and Teens - FSN/JJAB/ DWI Planning Council -Parent-to-Parent Confidential Forum - provided by FSN/JJAB -Envision Your Future for Boys -r.a.d.KIDS, provided by YMCA

Effective Education:

Definition: Every child and youth needs and deserves the intellectual development, motivation, and personal, socialemotional, and cultural skills needed for successful work and lifelong learning in a diverse nation, as a result of having quality learning environments, challenging expectations, and consistent formal and informal guidance and mentoring. Answers could include percent of qualified teachers; percent of schools meeting/not meeting No Child Left Behind (NCLB) standards; apprenticeship or Job-Shadowing opportunities; availability of computers and/or Internet in schools and throughout community; etc.

Ans: The LAPS system is one of the few school districts in New Mexico where all schools achieved Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) standards for the past two years. Standards-based achievement test scores, SAT scores, and ACT scores by Los Alamos students rank at the top in New Mexico and nationally. LAPS offers many AP classes, as well as opportunities in the fine arts, including drama and music, and a comprehensive athletic program. A very high percentage of LAPS teachers are deemed "highly qualified," as defined by NCLB, and many have a master's degree or above. Over 95% of Los Alamos High School graduates go on to higher education and a large percentage go on to graduate school. A number of students have the opportunity to work in the community and at the National Laboratory, and many have mentors that provide experience and exposure to what is happening in the work world.

Opportunities to Help Others:

Definition: Every child and youth needs and deserves the chance to make a difference - in their families, schools, communities, nation and world - through having models of caring behavior, awareness of the needs of others, a sense of personal responsibility to contribute to larger society, and opportunities for volunteering, leadership and service. Answers could include civic and character education; volunteer opportunities to help children and youth; service-learning opportunities in school; faith-based organization and community organizations; mandatory service requirements; and leadership opportunities for children and youth in the community; etc.

Ans: Youth have a multitude of opportunities to make a difference in Los Alamos. For example, youth who participate in the Building Leadership Skills program are actively involved in community service learning activities. With adult guidance and assistance, youth identify community needs as topics for community service projects. Youth work together with adults to plan and implement solutions to identified problems. Teen Court is another example of youth making a difference in Los Alamos. This program was implemented in Los Alamos County in 2005. This program provides teens with a unique opportunity to serve on a jury or work as an attorney for cases involving infractions committed by their peers. It enables youth to have a positive impact on their community by handing down sentences that always includes community service hours and jury duty sessions for the defendant. These and many other examples are provided throughout our proposal.

Section 5: Children and Youth Outcomes

Please complete Section 5 by providing locally collected data ONLY that describes measurable outcomes for young people in your community. Please make sure that the data you include reflects the outcomes of young people in the community as was described in Section 1b - for example, if the community applying for this honor is a city, please do not include county data. [OR You may change the geographic area being considered for this honor to support the data available]. If your community does not collect information related to the preferred data point, please mark "NOT APPLICABLE". When possible, please include trend data to show progress over time.

1a. Educational Attainment - High School completion is one of the most important indicators for the America's Promise Alliance to gauge how well our nation's young people are doing.

1a PLEASE CHECK IF NOT APPLICABLE/ NO DATA AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY Yes

Please report: High school graduation or completion rate

Reference for preferred data point: For local information, please check: School District records; County or City Board of Education; State Department of Education; School Matters <http://www.schoolmatters.com/>; or Editorial Projects in Education Research Center <http://www.edweek.org/dc06>. To find state-level data for comparison purposes please visit <http://Nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states>

Graduation Rate (%): 94.16% of Los Alamos High School seniors graduated in 2005; compared to 56.7% within our state.

Please describe how this rate was calculated: Total number of graduates divided by the number of seniors enrolled on the 40th day of the same year.

Source: New Mexico Public Education Department

Year: 2007

1b. Educational Attainment/Achievement - Succeeding in school (e.g., attaining competency in math, reading and science, graduating high school and attending college) is associated with better job prospects, higher income, stronger civic engagement and reduced reliance on public assistance.

1b PLEASE CHECK IF NOT APPLICABLE/ NO DATA AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY Yes

Preferred Data Point examples: College or post-secondary enrollment; Math or English Proficiency test scores or early school readiness indicators such as cognitive and non-cognitive skills

If preferred data points are not available, other Pupil-teacher ratio; NAEP scores; state standardized test scores, Adequate Yearly Progress data points could include: (AYP)

Reference for preferred data point: For local information, please check: School District records; County or City Board of Education; State Department of Education; School Matters <http://www.schoolmatters.com/>; or Editorial Projects in Education Research Center <http://www.edweek.org/dc06>. To find state-level data for comparison purposes please visit <http://Nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states>

Community Indicator Data Point: 95% of Los Alamos High School graduates pursue higher education degrees, compared to 56.7% within New

Mexico.

Source: Los Alamos Public Schools 2006-07 exit survey, www.schoolsmatter.com

Year: 2007

2. Psychological Health - The absence of depression and anxiety and the presence of optimism and hope is associated with higher quality parent-child and peer relationships as well as higher levels of educational attainment.

2 PLEASE CHECK IF NOT APPLICABLE/ NO DATA AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY Yes

Preferred Data Point example: Clinical depression rates

If preferred data point examples are not available, other data points reported could include: Agency referrals for service rates; Suicide attempts

Reference for preferred data point: State or County Department of Public Health, please visit <http://www.drugabusestatistics.samhsa.gov/states.htm> for state-level information that may be used for comparison purposes. State-level information may also be found at: <http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/thechild/state.htm> or at the CDC: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/map_page.htm

Community Indicator Data Point: In 2004-05 10% of 7-12th grade students surveyed reported thinking “often” or “a lot” about committing suicide.

Source: 2004-05 PRIDE Survey Report

Year: 2004

3. Physical Health - Early childhood health factors such as lead exposure, not having the full battery of immunizations and low birth-weight are associated with long-term deficits in physical and cognitive functioning. Later health factors, such as obesity, set children up for health problems in adulthood.

3 PLEASE CHECK IF NOT APPLICABLE/ NO DATA AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY Yes

Preferred Data Point examples: Immunization rate

If preferred data point examples are not available, other data points reported could include: Child and youth mortality rate; youth obesity rates; birth weights

Reference for preferred data point: State or County Department of Public Health Please visit <http://www.drugabusestatistics.samhsa.gov/states.htm> for state-level information that may be used for comparison purposes. State-level information may also be found at: <http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/thechild/state.htm> or at the CDC: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/map_page.htm

Community Indicator Data Point: In 2006, over 90% of Los Alamos County toddlers age 24 months and younger were immunized against measles, mumps, rubella, whooping cough, diphtheria, tetanus, polio and other preventable diseases.

Source: New Mexico Department of Health

Year: 2006

4. Healthy Behaviors - Increases in pro-social activities and behaviors (e.g., vigorous physical activity and a nutritious diet) and decreases in negative behaviors (e.g., drug and alcohol use, violence, and sexual activity) are associated with safer neighborhoods, safer schools and improved long-term prospects for young people.

4 PLEASE CHECK IF NOT APPLICABLE/ NO DATA AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY Yes

Preferred Data Point examples: Rates of children as crime victims or drug/alcohol use

If preferred data point examples are not available, other data points reported could include: Smoking; violent/criminal behavior; teen birth rates; STD's reported; enrollment in non-academic activities to build social skills; # of young people engaged in youth or intramural sports.

Reference for preferred data point: State and/or Local Department of Public Health; Department of Juvenile Justice at the U.S. Department of Justice; Local law enforcement agency and/or court system. Please visit <http://www.drugabusestatistics.samhsa.gov/states.htm> for state-level information that may be used for comparison purposes. State-level information may also be found at: <http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/thechild/state.htm> or at the CDC: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/map_page.htm

Community Indicator Data Point: In 2004, 57.7% of 12th graders at Los Alamos High School admitted to drinking beer.

Source: Los Alamos Public Schools 2005 PRIDE Survey Report

Year: 2004

5. Civic Engagement - Participating in civic activities is associated with better well-being for the participating individuals, such as academic and social outcomes, and better outcomes for the communities in which they participate.

5 PLEASE CHECK IF NOT APPLICABLE/ NO DATA AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY Yes

Preferred Data Point examples: Volunteer rates; voting rates for 18-21 year-olds; membership in civic organizations; hours reported for service learning or other mandatory service requirements; membership in civic organizations or involvement in community wide activities, youth-led organizations or political groups

Reference for preferred data point: Local United Way; Local Department of Education; National Election Exit Polls for your State; Corporation for National and Community Service Learn and Serve; local Volunteer Center.

Community Indicator Data Point: For 2005-06 school years, there were a total of 132 members actively involved in National Honor Society. There are many other volunteer opportunities for our youth such as Natural Helpers, Key Club, Family YMCA, Teen Court, JJAB, Los Alamos Youth Leadership, and JUNTOS.

Source: LAHS annual National Honor Society Roster

Year: 2006

Section 6: Youth Voice

An essential component of your work in communities should be youth voice and leadership. Please have three youth from your community submit testimonials (either written or on video) supporting your application. These submissions will be uploaded below. Please include the young person's name, age and affiliation within the community in each submission. These testimonials should be truly the voice of the young person submitting them; they should not be scripted or written by adults.

For each testimonial, the youth should address the following questions:

- What makes your community deserving of being named one of our nation's 100 Best Communities for Young People?
- What opportunities exist that allow young people to get involved in your community? Are there opportunities to work side by side or in partnership with adults?
- Explain or describe the availability of age-appropriate opportunities for the young people in your community.
- Provide a personal example of how your community has helped you.

NO ADDITIONAL MATERIALS WILL BE ACCEPTED. All materials should be uploaded as part of your community's application and video submissions formatted to fit within the guidelines below. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY ADDITIONAL MATERIALS OR VIDEOS.**

1 Youth 1:

Ans: \Colin MacArthur 100 Best Comm. Recc._0.doc

2 Youth 2:

Ans: \J Kasik Youth Letter 100 Best_1.doc

3 Youth 3:

Ans: \KSouza Youth Letter 100 Best_2.doc

Guidelines: For written documents, each submission should not exceed 500 words in length and be doublespaced, Times New Roman, font size 12. For on-line youth testimonial video submissions, the size of the overall video must not exceed 20MB in size. Acceptable video formats include Microsoft Windows Media Player, Apple QuickTime, and Audio-Video Interleaved (AVI). For audio only submissions, the acceptable file formats are MPEG audio (MP3) and Microsoft Wave Audio File (WAV).

NO ADDITIONAL MATERIALS WILL BE ACCEPTED VIA US MAIL.**Section 7: Collaboration**

Please list individuals and organizations from all sectors who participated in completing this application. Upon submission of name and e-mail address, each individual listed will be sent a certifying statement via e-mail that will allow them to certify that their organization was involved in the creation of the community's application. Up to 3 contacts for each sector may be listed.

Please note: These contacts should be willing to speak to America's Promise staff or reviewers on behalf of your community's application and should be aware that their organization participated in the application process.

Education Sector

Name	Email	Title	Organisation/Role	Collaborated
Georgina Williams	g.williams@laschools.net	Prevention Specialist	Los Alamos Public Schools	True
Dr. James Anderson	j.anderson@laschools.net	Superintendent	Los Alamos Public Schools	True
Morris Pongratz	mpongratz@losalamos.com	Youth Representative/PRIDE Survey	Los Alamos Public Schools/	True

Faith Sector

Name	Email	Title	Organisation/Role	Collaborated
Keith Lewis	gohorns_99@yahoo.com	Youth Pastor	United Church of Los Alamos	
Matt Nichols	matt@bethluth.com	Director of Youth and Family Ministries	Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church	

Nonprofit Sector

Name	Email	Title	Organisation/Role	Collaborated
Susan Mack	director@lafsn.org	Director, Family Strengths Network		True
Linda Daly	ldaly@laymca.org	President/ Director, Kiwanis/ The Family YMCA		
Bernadette Lauritzen	teemeup@concentric.net	Coordinator, Community Health Council		True

Private Sector

Name	Email	Title	Organisation/Role	Collaborated
Kevin Holsapple	kevin@losalamos.org	Executive Director, LACDC/Los Alamos Chamber of Commerce		True
Louis Santoro	lou.santoro.nz8q@statefarm.com	State Farm Agent		
Patrick Sullivan	patrick@losalamos.org	Business Development Director, UNM-LA Small Business		True

Public Sector

Name	Email	Title	Organisation/Role	Collaborated
Julie Habiger	juliehabiger@lacnm.us	Public Information Officer		

Robert Gibson rgibson@swcp.com	Los Alamos County Council Member	True
Sharon Stover sstover@cybermesa.com	JJAB	True

Youth Representative

Name	Email	Title	Organisation/Role	Collaborated
Colin MacArthur	colinpmacarthur@gmail.com	Student	YAB Chair	True
Jeremy Kasik	jeremykas@gmail.com	Student	Los Alamos Youth Leadership	True
Kelsey Souza	souzake@gmail.com	Student	JJAB, Teen Court	True

Section 8: Summary and Reflection

Please take this opportunity to summarize or reinforce the topics or programs mentioned in your application. We are also interested in how your community's youth focused efforts are captured in the media.

1. Pretend for a moment that you are a member of the Selection Panel. If they analyzed your media coverage of issues relating to young people ONLY over the last year, what would be the most challenging issues identified and what information would you provide to show that progress is being made against that specific issue?

Ans: Los Alamos community youth providers and volunteers have worked diligently to develop a positive relationship with the local media including the local newspaper and radio station. Establishing these positive relationships has allowed all of our local agencies to grow relationships with the news reporters and to ensure accurate and timely reporting of issues and events within the community. One issue Los Alamos is currently struggling with is that of underage drinking. The positive relationships with local media has encouraged reporters to equitably cover the disturbing and sad consequences of underage drinking and the positive responses by youth and adults throughout the community. An example where the media worked effectively with local collaborative organizations was in covering the first youth-oriented Town Hall Meeting held in Los Alamos in March 2006. The Town Hall Meeting was a forum coordinated by the DWI Planning Council and the theme was "Start Talking Before They Start Drinking." The Town Hall Meeting included a teen panel and individual group question and answer sessions. The event was highly attended by a diverse population of youth, adults, and community leaders. During the meeting, youth were able to develop concrete strategies regarding how to work as a community to reduce underage drinking problem. The media attended the Town Hall Meeting and a compelling story was printed in the local newspaper. Issues regarding the meeting and underage drinking were discussed on the local radio station; further engaging our community in the solution-oriented efforts revolving around underage drinking. As a community concerned about underage drinking issues, we will continue to work with our local media to ensure continued coverage of the programs and initiatives designed to combat underage drinking and other important youth related issues. Los Alamos is fortunate that we are a safe community with relatively few violent incidents and solid relationships with the media.

2. Based on the questions that you have answered please tell us why your community should be considered one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People.

Ans: Los Alamos, New Mexico is a western city of natural beauty and ideal weather. LA is a small community in the northern mountains of New Mexico. LA is a safe community with unity, spirit, and very low crime rates. It is a community with concern for children and high expectations for their future. It is an ideal place for children to grow up and reach their full potential. LA is a small town with a high concentration of educated individuals. We are infamous as the home of the Los Alamos National Laboratory and unique in many respects. We have a diverse population, because people come from all over the world to work and conduct research at LANL. We are located at a high elevation and isolated from other communities due to the secrecy that surrounded the development of LANL during World War II. We are immersed in the Native American and Hispanic cultures of New Mexico, yet we are relative newcomers to the state. In 2000, Offspring Magazine, the Magazine of Smart Parenting included the LAPS in a list of the 100 best school districts in the country and ranked LAPS as the top school district in the southwest. In the past few years, Los Alamos High School has also been ranked highly by Newsweek and Time magazines in their coverage of communities with excellent schools. Recently, LAPS received the 2007 Class AAAA Director's Cup, which is one of the greatest non-academic honors that can be bestowed upon a school and its community. Los Alamos Commerce and Development Corporation, a local not-for-profit organization, has successfully implemented a Youth Business Grant Program

(YBGP) for the past 21 years. The program was developed to assist youth in running a small business by offering grants for business expenses. The YBGP is made possible through the generous support of local business owners and volunteers. Youth grant recipients are mentored by business volunteers and are encouraged to utilize all resources within the community. In terms of technology, the influence of the LANL on the community is evident. The LA Public Library is state-of-the-art. The LAPS have networked all of the schools and have a wireless environment at each school site. Computers are available through mobile laboratories, regular computer laboratories, and in every school classroom. LAPS teachers communicate with students and parents via websites. As a community, the reduction of risk factors for youth is important to our citizens. The LA High School "Green and Gold" calendar features information on the issue of underage drinking and the 40 Developmental Assets. Through the collaborative efforts of the Chamber of Commerce, JJAB and the CHC have created the "Assets in Action" program to promote the 40 Developmental Assets throughout the community. Outdoor recreation is a major part of the community and a leisure pursuit that spans the generations. There are fun-runs, bike races, and hiking events for all ages, all year round. Skiing and snowboarding are important activities in the winter and the community is very supportive of our local Pajarito Mountain Ski Club. Large crowds attend and support school and recreational sports events of all varieties. The elementary, middle, and high schools all support letting students and staff out early for the LAPS High School Homecoming with the entire town turning out for the annual parade and football game. The CHC orchestrates "Grandfriends" at the senior center, an intergenerational program that is gratifying to the seniors and children. We have Big Brothers/Big Sisters, LunchBuddies, and other adult-youth mentoring programs. The JJAB, FSN, Los Alamos Family Council, CHC, and many other community groups have youth issues at the core of their missions. We are also proud of the fact that the JJAB is no longer just a committee. Because of community commitment and engagement, JJAB has formalized its efforts by becoming a non-profit organization with permanent County funding and a permanent Director. JJAB can now work aggressively with local providers to facilitate youth activities and initiatives throughout LA. Our community truly cares about its youth. Adults are actively involved in planning for, working with, mentoring, considering the opinions of, and advocating for the youth of Los Alamos. Youth issues are a priority for all youth provider organizations and community and civic leaders. Public, private, and non-profit agencies in Los Alamos work collaboratively to ensure that needs are met for the youth in this community. Los Alamos, New Mexico has truly earned serious consideration as one of the 100 Best Communities for Youth.